WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer in the form of its aqueous dispersions or of its water-redispersible powders, comprising homo- or copolymers of one or more monomers from the group consisting of vinyl esters of optionally branched alkyl carboxylic acids having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms, (meth)acrylic esters of alcohols having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms, vinylaromatics, olefins, dienes, and vinyl halides, wherein partially hydrolyzed vinyl acetate-ethylene copolymers with an ethylene content of from 1 to 15 mol%, with a degree of hydrolysis DH of the vinyl acetate units of 80 mol% < DH < 95 mol%, and with a Höppler viscosity, in 4% by weight aqueous solution, of from 2 to 30 mPas, as measured by the Höppler method at 20°C, according to DIN 53015, are present as protective colloids.

2. The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 1, wherein the degree of hydrolysis DH of the partially hydrolyzed vinyl acetate-ethylene copolymers is from 85 to 90 mol%.

3. The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 1, wherein the ethylene content of the partially hydrolyzed vinyl acetate-ethylene copolymers is from 1 to 5 mol%.

4. The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 2, wherein the ethylene content of the partially hydrolyzed vinyl acetate-ethylene copolymers is from 1 to 5 mol%.

5. The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 1, wherein the protective colloid content is from 3 to 30% by weight, based on the base polymer.

6. The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 2, wherein the protective colloid content is from 3 to 30% by weight, based on the base polymer.

7. The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 3, wherein the protective colloid content is from 3 to 30% by weight, based on the base polymer.

8. The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 4, wherein the protective colloid content is from 3 to 30% by weight, based on the base polymer.

9. The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 1, wherein the selection of monomer and the selection of the parts by weight of any comonomers for the base polymer is such that the base polymer has a glass transition temperature Tg of from -50°C to +50°C.

10. The protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 1, wherein from 0.05 to 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the base polymer, of auxiliary monomers are also copolymerized.

11. A process for preparing the protective-colloid-stabilized base polymer of claim 1, comprisng polymerizing by an emulsion polymerization process or a suspension polymerization process, and where the base polymer is in the form of redispersible polymer powders, drying the resultant aqueous dispersion.

12. In a formulation comprising an inorganic, hydraulically setting binder and a protective-colloid-stabilized polymer, the improvement comprising selecting as at least one protective-colloid-stablized polymer, the protective stabilized polymer of claim 1.

13. The formulation of claim 12, which is selected from the group consisting of construction adhesives, plasters, renders, trowelling compositions, floor-filling compositions, jointing mortars, and paints.

14. A coating composition or adhesive containing, as the sole binder, the protective-colloid-stabilized polymer of claim 1.

15. A composition for the coating or binding of textiles or paper containing, as the sole binder, the protective-colloid-stabilized polymer of claim 1.